

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed October 20, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 2, 5 – 11 and 14 – 18 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 2, 5 – 11 and 14 - 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Onaga* in view of *Lahmi*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In this regard, amended claim 1 recites:

1. A method of allocating use of peripheral devices in a network system comprised of:
 - identifying users in the network system to a central device;
 - providing peripheral device access limitations to the users by the central device, wherein the peripheral devices perform document processing;
 - informing the peripheral devices of the access allowed to users by the central device;
 - permitting a user to communicate with the central device, via the Internet, by inputting information into one of the peripheral devices such that status information pertaining to the one of the peripheral devices is provided to the user;***
 - reading marks on documents to be processed by the one of the peripheral devices; and
 - identifying, by the marks, the documents to the central device, such that processing of the documents by the one of the peripheral devices is permitted if access of the user corresponds to the documents.***
- (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the recited combination is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 1 because at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1 are not taught or reasonably suggested by the combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 and 5

– 9 are dependent claims that incorporate the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 10, that claim recites:

10. A network system controlling and managing resource usage comprised of:
- a central device accessible by one or more users; and
 - one or more peripheral devices, wherein the peripheral devices process documents, wherein the central device provides information to the peripheral devices as to access by the users, and ***wherein the peripheral devices facilitate communication with the central device by receiving information from the users and, in response thereto, providing status information pertaining to the peripheral devices to the users, wherein the documents are given a mark read by the peripheral devices and identified by the central device such that the processing of the documents by the peripheral devices is permitted if access of the users correspond to the documents.***
- (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the recited combination is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 10 because at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1 are not taught reasonably suggested by the combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 11 and 14 – 18 are dependent claims that incorporate the features/limitations of claim 10, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

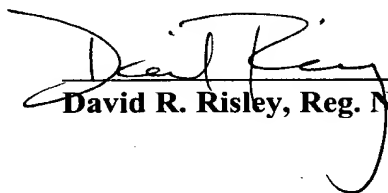
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

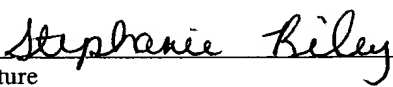
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 11/8/04.


Signature